

List of Governors of Texas

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The **governor of Texas** is the head of the executive branch of Texas's government and the commander-in-chief of the state's military forces. The governor has the power to either approve or veto bills passed by the Texas Legislature, and to convene the legislature. The governor may grant pardons in cases other than impeachment (but only when recommended by the Board of Pardons and Paroles) or in the case of treason, with permission by the legislature.

Compared to the governors of other U.S. states, the governorship of Texas has been cited by *Slate* magazine and liberal commentator Molly Ivins as a fairly weak office.^{[1][2]} In some respects it is the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, who presides over the state Senate, who is a more powerful political figure able to exercise greater personal prerogatives.^{[1][2]} Current Governor Rick Perry held the Lt. Governorship from 1999–2000 under George W. Bush.

The state's first constitution in 1845 established the office of governor, to serve for two years, but no more than four years out of every six (essentially a limit of no more than two consecutive terms).^[3] The 1861 secessionist constitution set the term start date at the first Monday in the November following the election.

^[4] The 1866 constitution, adopted just after the American Civil War, increased terms to four years, but no more than eight years out of every twelve, and moved the start date to the first Thursday after the organization of the legislature, or "as soon thereafter as practicable".^[5] The Reconstruction constitution of 1869 removed the limit on terms,^[6] and to this day,

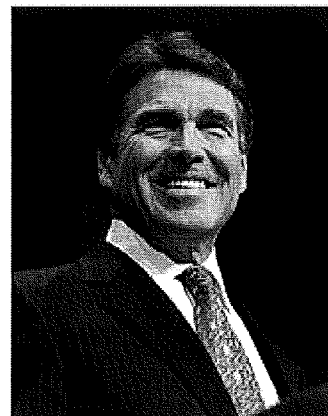
Texas is one of 14 states^[7] with no gubernatorial term

limit. The present constitution of 1876 shortened terms back to two years,^[8] but a 1972 amendment increased it back to four years.^[9]

Governor of Texas



Seal of the Governor



Incumbent

Rick Perry

since December 21, 2000

Style	The Honorable
Residence	Texas Governor's Mansion
Term length	Four years, no term limits
Inaugural holder	James Pinckney Henderson 1846
Formation	Texas Constitution
Website	Office of the Governor (http://www.governor.state.tx.us/)

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The Governor is sworn-in on the third Tuesday of January every four years along with the Lieutenant Governor, so Perry and current Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst both began new terms on January 18, 2011, which ends on January 20, 2015. Perry announced on July 8, 2013, that he will not seek re-election to a fourth full term in the upcoming 2014 elections, so his third full term as Governor will end on January 20, 2015.

Despite the lack of term limits, no Texas governor in the 19th or 20th century ever served more than seven and a half consecutive years in office (Allan Shivers) or eight years total service (Bill Clements, in two non-consecutive four-year terms). Current Governor Rick Perry, who took office in December 2000, has now surpassed both records. Perry joins Shivers, Price Daniel, and John Connally as the fourth Texas governor to serve three terms.

In case of a vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor becomes governor.^[10] This was added only in a 1999 amendment, prior to which the lieutenant governor only acted as governor, except during the time of the 1861 constitution, which said that the lieutenant governor would be "styled Governor of the State of Texas" in case of vacancy.^[11] The Governor and first family reside in the Texas Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas.

Contents

- 1 Governors of Spanish Texas
- 2 Governors of Mexican Texas
- 3 Presidents of the Republic of Texas
- 4 Governors of Texas
- 5 Other high offices held
- 6 Living former governors
- 7 Gubernatorial trivia
 - 7.1 Background
 - 7.2 Elections
 - 7.3 Texas governors in popular culture
- 8 See also
- 9 Notes
- 10 References

Governors of Spanish Texas

See: *List of Texas Governors and Presidents*

Governors of Mexican Texas

See: *List of Texas Governors and Presidents*











Presidents of the Republic of Texas












See: *President of the Republic of Texas#List of presidents and vice presidents*











Governors of Texas

Number of Governors of Texas by party affiliation




Party	Governors
Democratic	39
Republican	5
Unionist	1
Independent	1

#	Name	Picture	Took office	Left office	Party	Lt. Governor	Notes [12]
1	James Pinckney Henderson		February 19, 1846	December 21, 1847	Democratic	Albert Clinton Horton	
2	George T. Wood		December 21, 1847	December 21, 1849	Democratic	John Alexander Greer	
3	Peter Hansborough Bell		December 21, 1849	November 23, 1853	Democratic	John Alexander Greer (1849–51) James W. Henderson (1851–53)	[13]
4	James W. Henderson		November 23, 1853	December 21, 1853	Democratic	<i>Vacant</i>	[14]
5	Elisha M. Pease		December 21, 1853	December 21, 1857	Unionist	David Catchings Dickson (1853–55) Hardin Richard Runnels (1855–57)	
6	Hardin R. Runnels		December 21, 1857	December 21, 1859	Democratic	Francis R. Lubbock	
7	Sam Houston		December 21, 1859	March 18, 1861	Independent	Edward Clark	[15]
8	Edward Clark		March 18, 1861	November 7, 1861	Democratic	<i>Vacant</i>	[14]
9	Francis R. Lubbock		November 7, 1861	November 5, 1863	Democratic	John McClannahan Crockett	
10	Pendleton Murrah		November 5, 1863	June 17, 1865	Democratic	Fletcher Summerfield Stockdale	[16]

10	Fletcher Interim Summerfield Stockdale		June 11, 1865	June 16, 1865	Military	<i>Vacant</i>	[17]
11	Andrew J. Hamilton		June 17, 1865	August 9, 1866	Democratic- Military	<i>Vacant</i>	[18]
12	James W. Throckmorton		August 9, 1866	August 8, 1867	Democratic	George Washington Jones	[19]
13	Elisha M. Pease		June 8, 1867	September 30, 1869	Republican	<i>Vacant</i>	[19][20]
14	Edmund J. Davis		January 8, 1870	January 15, 1874	Republican	<i>Vacant</i>	[21]
15	Richard Coke		January 15, 1874	December 21, 1876	Democratic	Richard Bennett Hubbard, Jr.	[22]
16	Richard B. Hubbard		December 21, 1876	January 21, 1879	Democratic	<i>Vacant</i>	[14]
17	Oran M. Roberts		January 21, 1879	January 16, 1883	Democratic	Joseph Draper Sayers (1879–81) Leonidas Jefferson Storey (1881–83)	
18	John Ireland		January 16, 1883	January 20, 1887	Democratic	Francis Marion Martin (1883 –85) Barnett Gibbs (1885–87)	
19	Lawrence Sullivan Ross		January 18, 1887	January 20, 1891	Democratic	Thomas Benton Wheeler	
20	James Stephen Hogg		January 20, 1891	January 15, 1895	Democratic	George Cassety Pendleton (1891 –93) Martin McNulty Crane (1893–95)	

21	Charles A. Culberson		January 15, 1895	January 17, 1899	Democratic	George Taylor Jester	
22	Joseph D. Sayers		January 17, 1899	January 20, 1903	Democratic	James Nathan Browning	
23	S. W. T. Lanham		January 20, 1903	January 15, 1907	Democratic	George D. Neal	
24	Thomas Mitchell Campbell		January 15, 1907	January 17, 1911	Democratic	Asbury Bascom Davidson	
25	Oscar Branch Colquitt		January 17, 1911	January 19, 1915	Democratic	Asbury Bascom Davidson (1911–13) William Harding Mayes (1913–15)	
26	James E. "Pa" Ferguson		January 19, 1915	August 25, 1917	Democratic	William Pettus Hobby, Sr.	[23]
27	William P. Hobby		August 25, 1917	January 18, 1921	Democratic	Vacant (1917–19) Willard Arnold Johnson (1919–21)	[24]
28	Pat Morris Neff		January 18, 1921	January 20, 1925	Democratic	Lynch Davidson (1921–23) Thomas Whitfield Davidson (1923–25)	
29	Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson		January 20, 1925	January 17, 1927	Democratic	Barry Miller	
30	Dan Moody		January 17, 1927	January 20, 1931	Democratic		
31	Ross S. Sterling		January 20, 1931	January 17, 1933	Democratic	Edgar E. Witt	

32	Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson		January 17, 1933	January 15, 1935	Democratic		
33	James V. Allred		January 15, 1935	January 17, 1939	Democratic	Walter Frank Woodul	
34	W. Lee O'Daniel		January 17, 1939	August 4, 1941	Democratic	Coke R. Stevenson	[25]
35	Coke R. Stevenson		August 4, 1941	January 21, 1947	Democratic	<i>Vacant</i> (1941–43) John Lee Smith (1943–47)	[24]
36	Beauford H. Jester		January 21, 1947	July 11, 1949	Democratic	Allan Shivers	[26]
37	Allan Shivers		July 11, 1949	January 15, 1957	Democratic	<i>Vacant</i> (1949–51) Ben Ramsey (1951–53)	[24]
38	Price Daniel		January 15, 1957	January 15, 1963	Democratic	Ben Ramsey	
39	John Connally		January 15, 1963	January 21, 1969	Democratic	Preston Smith	
40	Preston Smith		January 21, 1969	January 16, 1973	Democratic	Ben Barnes	
41	Dolph Briscoe		January 16, 1973	January 16, 1979	Democratic		
42	Bill Clements		January 16, 1979	January 18, 1983	Republican	William P. Hobby, Jr.	
43	Mark White		January 18, 1983	January 20, 1987	Democratic		
44	Bill Clements		January 20, 1987	January 15, 1991	Republican		
45	Ann Richards				Democratic	Bob Bullock	

			January 15, 1991	January 17, 1995			
46	George W. Bush		January 17, 1995	December 21, 2000	Republican	Bob Bullock (1995–99) Rick Perry (1999–2000)	[27]
47	Rick Perry		December 21, 2000	<i>Incumbent</i>	Republican	Bill Ratliff (<i>acting</i>) (2000–03) David Dewhurst (2003–present)	[24][28]

Other high offices held

Name	Gubernatorial Term	Other High Offices Held
Sam Houston	1859-1861	U.S. Representative (1823-1827), Governor of Tennessee (1827-1829), President of Texas (1836-1838, 1841-1844), U.S. Senator (1846-1859)
W. Lee O'Daniel	1939-1941	U.S. Senator (1941–1949)
Price Daniel	1957–1963	U.S. Senator (1953–1957) ✓
John Connally	1963–1969	U.S. Secretary of the Navy (1961) U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (1971–1972)
Bill Clements	1979–1983 1987–1991	U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense (1971–1977)
George W. Bush	1995–2000	43rd President of the United States (2001–2009)

Living former governors

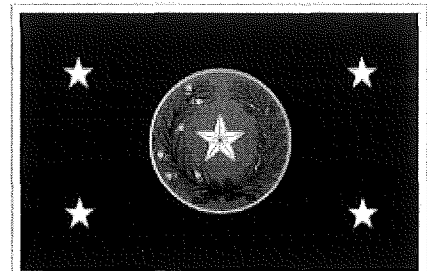
As of August 2014, two former governors were living. The most recent death of a former governor was that of Bill Clements (1979–1983, 1987–1991), on May 29, 2011. The most recent governor to serve who has died is Ann Richards (1991–1995), who died on September 13, 2006.

Name	Gubernatorial term	Date of birth
Mark White	1983–1987	March 17, 1940
George W. Bush	1995–2000	July 6, 1946

Gubernatorial trivia

Background

Texas has had two female governors: Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson and Ann Richards. Ferguson was one of the first two women elected governor of a U.S. state (on November 4, 1924), along with Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming. Ross was inaugurated on January 5, 1925, while Ferguson was inaugurated on January 20, so Ross is considered the first female state governor. Ferguson was the wife of former governor Jim "Pa" Ferguson, while Richards was elected "in her own right," being neither the spouse nor widow of a governor.



Along with the Seal of Office, the governor of Texas also has a flag. It is not in common use.

Texas governors have been born in fourteen states: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Baylor University is the most common alma mater of Texas governors, with five of them - Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Pat Morris Neff, Price Daniel, Mark White, and Ann Richards - considered alumni (though Ross attended but never completed a degree). To date, Coke Stevenson is the most recent governor who never attended college, and Bill Clements is the most recent who attended college but did not graduate.

Elections

Three governors have served non-consecutive terms: Elisha M. Pease, Miriam A. Ferguson, and Bill Clements. As was the case in most Southern states, Texas elected no Republican governors from the end of Reconstruction until the late twentieth century. Bill Clements was the state's first Republican governor since Edmund J. Davis left office in 1874, 105 years earlier. Dolph Briscoe was the last governor to be elected to a two-year term, in 1972; he was also the first to be elected to a four-year term, in 1974, since the post-Reconstruction period when two-year terms had first been established. Governor Rick Perry, who ascended to the governorship on December 21, 2000 upon the resignation of then-Governor George W. Bush, won full four-year terms in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Texas governors in popular culture

W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel served as the inspiration for the fictional, but similarly named Mississippi Governor Menelaus "Pappy" O'Daniel in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Ann Richards had a cameo appearance on an episode of the animated comedy series *King of the Hill*, in which she has a brief romance with Bill Dauterive after he takes the fall for mooning her in the elevator of an Austin hotel (Hank actually mooned her because he thought his friends were going to be mooning the people in the elevator but they set him up).

See also

- List of Texas Governors and Presidents
- List of Presidents of the Republic of Texas
- List of Lieutenant Governors of Texas

Notes

1. ^ ^{a b} Suellentrop, Chip (2000-01-05). "Is George W. Bush a "Weak" Governor?" (<http://www.slate.com/id/1004307/>). *Slate Magazine - Explainer*. Retrieved 2010-01-25.
2. ^ ^{a b} Ivins, Molly; Lou Dubose (2000). *Shrub: The Short But Happy Political Life of George W. Bush*. New York: Vintage Books. pp. xii–xiii. ISBN 0-375-75714-7.
3. ^ 1845 Const. Art V sec 4
4. ^ 1861 Const. art V sec 12
5. ^ 1866 Const. art V sec 4
6. ^ 1869 Const. Art IV sec 4
7. ^ Executive Branch (<http://www.nga.org/files/pdf/BOS4-9.pdf>) retrieved 23-October-2008
8. ^ TX Const. Art IV sec 4
9. ^ Texas Politics - The Executive Branch (http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/1_3_1.html). Texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu. Retrieved on 2013-07-15.
10. ^ TX Const. art IV sec 16 graf d
11. ^ 1861 Const art V sec 12
12. ^ The fractional terms of some governors are not to be absolutely literally; rather, they are meant to show single terms during which multiple governors served, due to resignations, deaths and the like.
13. ^ Resigned to take an elected seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.
14. ^ ^{abc} As lieutenant governor, filled unexpired term.
15. ^ Evicted from office due to his refusal to swear an oath to the Confederate States of America.
16. ^ Fled Austin as it fell to Union forces.
17. ^ NGA says he was Lt. Gov who served as Gov after Murrah fled Texas.
18. ^ Provisional military governor.
19. ^ ^{a b} James Throckmorton was removed from office by General Philip Sheridan, and Elisha Pease installed in his place.
20. ^ Resigned due to disagreements with General Joseph Reynolds.
21. ^ Elected in a special election held under military direction.
22. ^ Resigned to take an elected seat in the U.S. Senate.
23. ^ Resigned due to the legislature bringing impeachment proceedings against him.
24. ^ ^{a b c d} As lieutenant governor, filled unexpired term, and was subsequently elected in their own right.
25. ^ Resigned after winning the Democratic primary for a U.S. Senate seat; he won the election.
26. ^ Died in office.
27. ^ Resigned to be President of the United States.
28. ^ Governor Perry's third elected term expires on January 20, 2015; he is not term limited.

References

General

- Legislative Reference Library of Texas -- Governors of Texas (<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legis/leaders/govbio.html>)
- Governor (of Texas) (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mbg03>) from the *Handbook of Texas Online*
- *The Handbook of Texas Online*: Texas History Quiz -- Presidents and Governors of Texas (<http://www.tshaonline.org/quiz/0602q.html>)
- Explanation of the strengths of governors (<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=187648>)

Constitutions

- 1876 Constitution, as amended (Current) (<http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/txconst/toc.html>)
- 1876 Constitution (<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1876>)
- 1869 Constitution (<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1869>)
- 1866 Constitution (<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1866>)
- 1861 Constitution (<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1861>)
- 1845 Constitution (<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1845>)

Specific

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| Lists of Texas politicians

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